

Charging Policy for Bamburgh School

Principles

We are committed to a free school education for all.

We Aim To:

- Ensure that education in school is free. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum with the exception of individual or group music tuition.
- Ensure that activities offered wholly or mainly during normal school teaching time should be available to all pupils regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to help meet the cost.
- Ensure that there is no statutory requirement to charge for any form of education but the school has the discretion to charge for optional activities provided wholly or mainly out of school hours.
- Ensure that the school has the right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of activities organised by the school, whether during or outside school hours.

PRACTICES

With the aforementioned aims in mind, it is the Policy of this school:

- To continue to request voluntary contributions from parents towards activities organised by the school during school hours.
- Subsidies may be available for children whose parents are unwilling or unable to make a voluntary contribution.
- If insufficient voluntary contributions are forthcoming for an activity and insufficient subsidies are available, then that activity will be cancelled.
- A charge will be made for all non-residential activities which take place wholly or more than 50% outside school hours, where the child's participation has been agreed in advance by the parents. The charge will include the cost of travel, entrance fees, insurance, books, equipment and any staff (teaching or non-teaching) engaged specifically for the activity.
- Residential trips outside school hours – a residential trip is deemed to take place outside school hours if the number of "missed" school sessions is less than half of the number of half days taken by the trip. Charges will be made as described above.
- The school may charge for the cost of ingredients, materials and equipment where parents have expressed the wish to have the finished product.
- The school may make charges for breakages and damage to property including window breakage and cost for graffiti removal.
- The school may charge for lost school property i.e. books.
- Music Tuition – The school will charge for individual or group tuition in playing a musical instrument which is neither part of the syllabus for an approved public examination, nor part of the National Curriculum.

- Remission of Charges – only parents who are in receipt of Universal Credit, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or State Pension Credit are eligible for remission of charges. Remission of charges only applies to board and lodgings charges which are levied directly by the LA or the school and where they relate to activities deemed to take place wholly or partly in school hours.
 - New unemployed claimants will receive Universal Credit from October 2013. Existing claimants will be removed onto Universal Credit between Autumn 2013 and 2017
 - Until Universal Credit is fully implemented the following benefits are eligible for remission of charges, Income Support, Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance, Child Tax Credit, where the parent is not entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) does not exceed the current rate or the Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit.
- Remission will not apply to such charges when they relate to activities wholly outside school hours, except if the activity is prescribed in a syllabus for a public examination, if it is prescribed by the National Curriculum or fulfils duties relating to Religious Education.
- The school will set all charges with regards to the letting of rooms.